## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Masaaki CHIBA Attorney Docket Number: 026390-00030

Serial Number: 10/538,408 Confirmation Number: 3607

Filed: June 10, 2005

For: DAMPING DEVICE

## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: October 24, 2005

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the information items listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each item is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the items be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

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$\boxtimes$	merits	This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months U.S. filing date, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the in the present application, OR (c) accompanies a Request for Continued nation. No certification or fee is required.
		This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months he U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
		a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
		b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
		c. Check number in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket Number , as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

- $\Box$ This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicants hereby petition that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our check number in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the petition fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket Number , as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this a. Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1). I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
- 4. Most of the references are cited in counterpart foreign application PCT/JP2003/015932, filed December 12, 2003. The relevance of the references is noted in the International Search Report, a copy of which is attached for the Examiner's information. We understand that the references have been forwarded by the International Bureau, and are available to the Examiner, but if the Examiner needs copies of any of the references, the Examiner is requested to advise counsel accordingly. 37 CFR § 1.98(d).

The relevance of Japanese Patent Publication Number 11-511229 with corresponding International Publication Number WO 96/41972 and Japanese Patent Publication Number 2002-193012 is discussed in the present specification.

Respectfully submitted,

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GEO:vmh

Enclosures: PTO/SB/08a

PTO/SB/08b

International Search Report

References (3)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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	Substitute for form 1449A/P	то		Complete if Known		
	INFORMATION	DICCL	OCUDE	Application Number	10/538,408	
	INFORMATION			Filing Date	June 10, 2005	
	STATEMENT B			First Named Inventor	Masaaki CHIBA	
	Form PTC	)/SB/08a		Art Unit		
				Examiner Name		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	026390-00030	

-			Ų	J.S. PATENT	DOCUMENTS	
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Document Number	Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-6,178,597	B1	01-30-2001	Naokazu SUZUKI et al.	
		US-2001/0023638	A1	09-27-2001	Hiroyuki YAMAGUCHI et al.	
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Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document	Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T⁵
		37-3523	JP	Y1	02-28-1960	Tetsukazu IMAI		
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Examiner	Date	-
Signature	Considered	

<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code. <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. AB indicates that only an English language abstract is attached.

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	Substitute for form 1449	B/PTO		Complete if Known		
	INFORMATIO	N DISCI	OSURE	Application Number	10/538,408	
	STATEMENT			Filing Date	June 10, 2005	
		TO/SB/08		First Named Inventor	Masaaki CHIBA	
	Form P	10/30/00	,	Art Unit		
				Examiner Name		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	026390-00030	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T²			
		Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 16891/1974 (Laid-open No. 108703/1975), France Bed Co., Ltd., September 5, 1975				
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<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code. <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. AB indicates that only an English language abstract is attached.